

give up. He willed his way through flawless executions on the parallel bars and the high bars to retake first, claim the gold medal, and make history.

However, this was not the first time that Paul has made history. Paul also became the first American man to win the individual all-around world title last year at the 2003 World Championships in Anaheim, California. Hamm completed a clutch performance on the difficult high bar routine during the final rotation to secure the title. He was only the second American to win a medal in the all-around world competition. Paul also secured a gold medal for the floor exercise, helping to lead his team to a silver medal.

In 2003, Paul was named by the International Gymnastics Federation as the Gymnast of the Year. Without question, gymnastics has no better representative.

Paul was born in Wisconsin, but chose to train for the Olympics at The Ohio State University. Paul is now a distinguished resident of Columbus, and his community is proud of all that he has accomplished.

Again, I congratulate Paul for the dedication and hard work he has demonstrated over the years, and for the incredible achievements that he has made both personally and with his team while representing our great nation on the world stage in Athens.

RECOGNIZING THE OAKLAND LITERACY COUNCIL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, today in America, nearly 1 in 5 adult Americans functions at the lowest literacy level. I rise today to recognize an outstanding organization in Southeast Michigan that is making tremendous strides in the fight against adult illiteracy. The Oakland Literacy Council delivers quality individualized basic reading and English language instruction to Oakland County, Michigan adults, many of whom are English as a second language students.

Since its inception in 1984, the Oakland Literacy Council has contributed more than 527,000 hours of instruction to 7,000 adults. The Literacy Councils' free service has been valued at over \$13.2 million. In 2003 alone, 400 volunteers donated 43,920 hours of their time to give 450 Oakland County residents the literacy skills necessary for a new job, a high school diploma, or just to read a bedtime story to their children.

Mr. Speaker, the Oakland Literacy Council showcases the very best of America's generosity. Besides the thousands of hours of donated time, the Literacy Council is entirely supported by public and private donations to offer free tutoring to all of its students. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding service the Oakland Literacy Council, and its gracious donors and volunteers, have provided to Southeastern Michigan.

HONORING THE REVEREND ABRAHAM MARSACH ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the many family, friends, and community members who have gathered to celebrate the life and legacy of one of our most outstanding leaders, and my dear friend, Reverend Abraham Marsach, as he celebrates his retirement. However, I am quite sure that his retirement does not mean the end of his advocacy and activism.

As we have seen across the Nation, the Hispanic community in New Haven, has grown and flourished over the last several decades. As it has grown, so has its demands for strong, vocal advocates willing to stand and fight for the needs of its members. Reverend Marsach has been just this kind of advocate—a passionate, active leader who has made a real difference in the lives of many. It is not often that you find such dedicated individuals who commit themselves so fully to the betterment of their community.

As both a community and spiritual leader, Reverend Marsach has touched the lives of thousands in New Haven. In his role as President of the Asociacion Ministerial Evangelica Hispana de New Haven, he helped to unite religious leaders across the community and worked with municipal leaders to effect change in the community. The founder of Junta for Progressive Action, he created a social service agency which has helped thousands in New Haven's Hispanic community access the programs and services they need to improve their quality of life. Mentor, leader, advocate, and friend—Reverend Marsach is a true community treasure.

Reverend Marsach has been a fixture in our community for many years and we owe him a great debt of gratitude for the multitude of contributions he has made that have enriched all of our lives. As a spiritual guide at the Star of Jacob Christian Church in New Haven, he has nourished the souls of many, often providing much needed comfort in the hardest of personal trials. I would be remiss if I did not personally thank him for the wonderful tribute that he made to Maria Perez, a member of my staff who passed away just over two years ago. He shared a unique friendship with Maria and his words were of great comfort to her family and my staff during a most difficult time.

Through his hard work and unparalleled dedication, Reverend Marsach has left an indelible mark on the New Haven community and a legacy that will inspire generations to come. For his innumerable contributions and selfless dedication, I am proud to stand today to extend my deepest thanks and sincerest appreciation. It gives me great pleasure to join his wife, Margarita, his three daughters, family, friends, and the New Haven community in congratulating Reverend Abraham Marsach as he celebrates his retirement. My very best wishes for many more years of health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE THOMPSON

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in tribute to a man with a distinguished career in public service. Throughout the course of his illustrious career, my great friend, Steve Thompson, served his beloved people of California with great passion, integrity, and distinction. On August 17th, California lost its most influential advocate for healthcare policy when Steve passed away after a brief and courageous battle against cancer. As his family and friends gather to pay tribute and remember Steve's countless achievements and contributions to the people of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting one of the Capitol's most well-respected figures, and my dear friend, Steve Thompson.

Steve started his forty-year Capitol career in 1964 as an Assistant Economist for the Department of Water Resources. In 1966, Steve moved to the Legislative Analyst's Office and, a year later, to the Assembly Health Committee. In 1971, Steve took a job as Principal Consultant to then Assemblyman Willie Brown's Ways and Means Committee. At Ways and Means, Thompson was part of what is now considered an all-star team of staffers that included John Mockler, now a leader on education, Phil Isenberg, who eventually became the Mayor of Sacramento and served in the Legislature for fourteen years, Ray Sullivan, who became a fiscal policy leader, and Bob Connelly, who became the Assembly's Chief Administrative Officer. Steve's numerous gifts were apparent to his cohorts from early on in his career. "In politics, you have to have passion, knowledge and perspective to succeed and Steve had all three," said John Mockler, a friend since 1965.

During this early part of his legislative career, Steve drafted California's first bill on autism and helped create the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, California's landmark reform on mental health services. Steve also played a big role in shaping legislation in the 1960s that created the system for caring for severely developmentally disabled people in smaller regional centers rather than in large state hospitals. Steve left the Legislature in 1974 and founded a public policy research firm. Seven years later, Steve returned to the Capitol as the Chief of Staff for the Speaker of the Assembly, Willie Brown. Willie Brown often referred to Steve as being "central" to his operation. In 1986, Steve took over as director of the Assembly Office of Research.

Throughout the Capitol, Steve was affectionately known as "the Health SMIC," short for "smartest man in California" on health care related issues. In 1992, Steve's mastery of health care related issues landed him the post of government affairs director and chief lobbyist for the California Medical Association. Steve used his influence to fight for the issue that he cared about the most: improving healthcare coverage for the medically uninsured. Just last year, Steve was the driving force behind legislation that requires employers to provide health care benefits to workers. Steve's passion to improve health care was so great that he was still testifying before legislative committees a week before his death.

While the loss of Steve Thompson to the state of California and the health care community is great, it is also of great personal loss to me. Steve and I attended grammar school together and were life long friends. I will always cherish my memories of Steve, he was a "good troublemaker" as one of our friends put it. Doris and I will dearly miss his friendship.

Steve is survived by his wife, Nancy; his sister, Dagmar, and his four children, Peter, Schuyler, Hallie, and Scott.

Mr. Speaker, as Steve Thompson's family members and friends gather to honor his legacy and many contributions, I am honored to pay tribute to one of my closest friends. His successes are unparalleled. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in paying my respect and acknowledging the deeds and life of an extraordinary man.

TRIBUTE TO EASTSIDE
COMPASSIONATE MISSION, INC.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to acknowledge the 10th anniversary celebration of the Eastside Mission of Flint, Michigan, which took place on Friday, August 27, 2004, during their fourth annual back to school carnival.

Pastor Bill Burdine and his wife Barbara established Eastside Compassionate Mission Center, Inc. in 1994. The mission is an independent ministry of the Eastern Michigan District of the Nazarene Church. Over the 10 years in operation, the mission has served a quarter million meals, and distributed several tons of food from its food pantry to the needy. Currently the mission has 1,594 households on their rolls and 426 infants registered. The mission is blessed to have a volunteer medical team that visits regularly to provide free health screenings, answer questions, take blood pressure, and make referrals and appointments. The mission also has an optometrist and chiropractor that visit and provide services as needed, also free of charge.

The Eastside Mission is doing marvelous things in the name of our Lord. I commend Pastor and Mrs. Burdine for their leadership, hard work and unwavering dedication to sustain this ministry. Colossians 4: 14-15 reads; "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." To that fact I also commend the volunteers who donate hours of their personal time and talent to assisting the less fortunate. The Burdines stated that they praise God for the victories however so few and they pray to God for a mighty harvest for their friends.

Mr. Speaker, as a former seminarian, I truly understand the important role the Church plays in our lives, and as such, I am honored to have people such as Pastor Bill and Barbara Burdine in my district. Self-evident is their lifelong commitment to enhancing the dignity and spirit of people, and our community is a better place thanks to their dedication to performing the Lord's work. I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in wishing them another decade of success.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED
PUBLIC SERVICE OF REVEREND
MICHAEL YOSHII

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Michael Yoshii, a clergyman in the city of Alameda, California. Reverend Yoshii has quickly become an integral part of Alameda's Asian community as a champion in the struggle for both human and civil rights. Reverend Yoshii will be honored for his outstanding contributions at a reception in his honor on Saturday, October 16, 2004.

A third-generation Japanese American, Reverend Yoshii has been a strong advocate and spokesperson for a number of important issues, such as housing for the poor, racial diversity, and civil liberties. Reverend Yoshii has also helped to initiate discussion forums among Alameda's citizens, in an effort to encourage those of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds to become better acquainted.

Reverend Yoshii has also been responsible for the creation of several school and community programs. In particular, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Alameda Multicultural Community Center. This center offers services to the Alameda community ranging from yoga classes to children's art classes. Reverend Yoshii has also contributed to the creation of several youth projects, including the Asian Pacific Youth Institute and the Asian Pacific Peer Counseling Project.

Several years ago, Reverend Yoshii worked alongside community members in lobbying the Alameda School District and the Alameda Board of Education to conduct a diversity audit. The diversity audit produced new hiring goals to increase diversity among the district's workforce. Reverend Yoshii has also helped reinvigorate programs like the Organization of Alameda Asians, which promotes voter registration for the Alameda community. He also was the convener for the Coalition of Alamedans for Racial Equality (CARE), a community response to racial controversy within the Alameda Police Department. Currently, CARE has evolved into a multicultural training program for students to address issues surrounding identity, culture, and racism.

I join in congratulating Reverend Yoshii for his commitment in creating new multicultural relationships in Alameda. I am confident Reverend Yoshii will continue to be an invaluable resource to the city and a tremendous asset.

HONORING ANN GRACE SMITH

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Ann Grace Smith, a Tampa Bay native who before losing her own battle with Lou Gehrig's Disease last month, helped countless other ALS patients through their own struggles with this disease.

Ann had been a University of Florida graduate, accountant, dedicated wife and mother of two before she was diagnosed with ALS.

Then, at a time when she was facing her greatest personal challenge, she devoted her energy to helping others.

While struggling with ALS herself, Ann helped found the ALS Association Florida Chapter in Tampa. Throughout her 19 year illness, she served on the board of directors, helping to build up the chapter and its services to our community.

Always able to see the big picture, Ann recognized the need to support not only ALS patients, but also their caregivers. She worked to provide respite relief for caregivers to relieve the stress and burden on those providing constant care for loved ones.

On behalf of the entire Tampa Bay community, I honor Ann for her selfless dedication to serving others, and I extend my deepest sympathies to her loving husband David, her family and friends. Ann was a true inspiration.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL CHAMPION
CONEJO VALLEY LITTLE
LEAGUE TEAM

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the coaches and players of the Conejo Valley Little League team, who won 22 consecutive postseason games on their way to earning the title of U.S. Champions on August 30.

To emphasize the enormity of this accomplishment by a dozen 11- and 12-year-old ball players from my district, allow me to cite some stats. About 7,400 teams and more than 88,800 players started the post-season quest. It was a two-month odyssey that began on June 29. The boys from Thousand Oaks, California, outscored their opponents 165-29. They played their final games thousands of miles from home, in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, before an international television audience and more than 30,000 people in the stands.

Talk about pressure.

They also lost their final game, and the world championship, to the Pabao Little League team of Willemstad, Curacao. But they turned that loss into a victory of respect when they circled the field with the Curacao players, tipped their hats to the Curacao fans and threw baseballs into the stands for souvenirs.

The Conejo Valley Little League team displayed class, talent, drive and true sportsmanship in a long string of wins on their way to becoming U.S. Champions, and during a single loss to Curacao.

As manager Tim Ginther told a reporter: "Now we're No. 2 in the world overall. That's not bad."

Political columnist and baseball fanatic George Will once observed that "sports serve society by providing vivid examples of excellence." The members of the Conejo Valley Little League team are vivid examples of excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating manager Tim Ginther; coaches Jim Barrett, Rick Brower and Frank Leon; the players, James Brady, Jordan Brower, Hayden Cronenbold, Derrick Francis, Timmy Ginther, Adam Justinlano, Tyler Karp,